

28 Parables of Jesus
SPIRITUAL DROPSY &
THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL CHALLENGE
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

COL Chapter 18: “Go Into The Highways and Hedges!”

Heredity, Status, or Membership is on automatic ticket to Heaven

At time of Jesus Christ leaders of the Jewish nation and many of the Jews thought they had the automatic privilege of Heaven because of their heredity to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Isn't this FEAST ONLY for US they would say! They delighted in the thought of the privilege of feast on the blessings of God while all the others who were not a part of Abraham and Isaac's family line was on the outside looking in. Jesus had to teach them that their thinking was totally wrong in respect to the kingdom of Heaven. He taught that it was for ALL people, nations, tongues, and people. They like everyone else had to accept the invitation of mercy.

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Jesus was invited to eat at a chief Pharisee's feast. While there He gave an extremely valuable parable to give all who thought that their privilege of heredity was good enough for Heaven.

Luke 14:1

1 And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.

What was one of the very first things that Jesus did at the feast that shocked all those at the feast? And what lesson can we learn from this?

Luke 14:2-6

2 And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.

Dropsy = Edema

Definition of edema

1. an abnormal infiltration and excess accumulation of serous fluid in connective tissue or in a serous cavity —called also *dropsy*

(show pictures)

- 3 And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, **Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?**
- 4 And they held their peace. And he took *him*, and healed him, and let him go;
- 5 And answered them, saying, **Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?**
- 6 And they could not answer him again to these things.

VERY IMPORTANT: Spiritual DROPSY / “SWOLLEN” Head Syndrome

The Pharisees present did not understand that the man's physical problem with edema (swelling / puffed up) that Jesus healed was the Pharisee's and many of the Jew spiritual problem. They were puffed up with the fluid of PRIDE, sick and in need of healing. They had the “swollen” head syndrome.

Do you suffer from spiritual dropsy which is the “swollen” head syndrome all puffed up with

pride? Let see as we study.

Jesus in the next following verses gives His hearers and us an invitation of mercy to heal us from our spiritual edema or dropsy of pride!

What instruction and lesson did Jesus teach them and us next about PRIDE?

Luke 14:7-11

- 7 And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,
 8 **When thou art bidden of any *man* to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;**
 9 **And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.**
 10 **But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.**
 11 **For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.** (Lesson)

Valuable Lesson:

Jesus teaches here that self promotion is actually self demotion! A puffed up swollen head suffering from spiritually dropsy will end in death, but those who humble themselves and accept the healing power of Jesus from their spiritual dropsy will have life!

Humility is Honorable to God

Pro 15:33 The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom; and before honour *is* humility.

Pro 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Pro 16:18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

The Great Supper

“The lesson of warning and instruction which Christ desired to give, He now illustrated by the parable of a great supper. The blessings of God, both for the present and for the future life, the Jews thought to shut up to themselves. They denied God's mercy to the Gentiles. By the parable Christ showed that they were themselves at that very time rejecting the invitation of mercy, the call to God's kingdom.

He showed that the invitation which they had slighted was to be sent to those whom they despised, those from whom they had drawn away their garments as if they were lepers to be shunned.” COL 219

According to Jesus, who are we to give this invitation of mercy and everlasting life to?

Luke 14:12-15

- 12 Then said he also to him that bade him, **When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor *thy* rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.** [Note: These are the people you know who have been blessed already with the knowledge and the invitation to mercy and everlasting life through Jesus Christ].
 13 **But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:**
 14 **And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**
 15 And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed *is* he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

Here in verse 15 this Pharisee had spiritual dropsy and needed healing. He was puffed up with spiritual pride

only thinking about the bliss of heaven for himself! He was selfish only thinking about himself.

Very important lesson:

Remember, the spiritual blessing of the kingdom of God is not for OURSELVES only but for ALL people especially those who are not able to “bless” you back. We cannot be selfish. Inactivity in sharing God's invitation of mercy of Truth is selfishness. **If you are afraid and inactive, you are suffering from spiritual dropsy and you need healing.**

Luke 9:26

26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father's, and of the holy angels.

Luke 12:8-9

8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

What parable does Jesus give next that reveals another symptom of spiritual dropsy (swollen pride head syndrome)?

Luke 14:16-24

16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a **great supper**, and bade many:

17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

18 And they all with **one consent** began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out **quickly** into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and **yet there is room**.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Who does the certain man and servant represent? And what does the great supper represent?

“By the great supper, Christ represents the blessings offered through the gospel. The provision is nothing less than Christ Himself. He is the bread that comes down from heaven; and from Him the streams of salvation flow. The Lord's messengers had proclaimed to the Jews the advent of the Saviour; they had pointed to Christ as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. In the feast He had provided, God offered to them the greatest gift that Heaven can bestow--a gift that is beyond computation. The love of God had furnished the costly banquet, and had provided inexhaustible resources. "If any man eat of this bread," Christ said, "he shall live for ever." John 6:51. COL 222

Certain man = Jesus

Servant= God's messengers of truth on the Mt. Of Truth

Great Supper=Everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ (the Bread of Life)

Who did Jesus tell His servants to invite to the great supper first?

Those who were “bidden”

Who are the “bidden”?

Bidden (Greek) = kaleō

Thayer Definition:

1) to call

1a) to call aloud, utter in a loud voice

1b) to invite

2) **to call, i.e. to name, by name**

2a) to give a name to

2a1) to receive the name of, receive as a name

2a2) to give some name to one, call his name

2b) to be called, i.e. to bear a name or title (among men)

2c) to salute one by name

The “bidden” were called by name

In verse 17 the bidden were specific people that God already named, Israel. The “bidden” had the privilege and light of the truth. Matter of fact it is clear that at the end of verse 17 it says “come, for all things are ready.” It appears that the bidden group knew that the certain man was preparing a supper. They were at one time greatly anticipating supper. When the great supper was ready their names were called first, because they had the privilege to know about the great supper first.

The “bidden” were the Israelites in Jesus who have both the law and the testimonies. The “bidden” today are professed Christians such as SDA’s who have both the law and the testimonies.

What was the “bidden’s” response to the call to the great supper?

Go back to

Luke 14:18

18 **And they ALL with one consent began to make excuse.**

Lesson taught

ALL the bidden were united as ONE in their excuse. Their excuse was a symptom of their spiritual condition. They ALL suffered from spiritual dropsy (edema), full of pride! Even though they at one time greatly anticipated the great supper they became comfortable with their worldly pursuits that puffed up their heads with pride.

What were their excuses focused on?

Self and worldly ambitions. All their excuses were extremely WEAK AND LAME!

“All the excuses betray a preoccupied mind. To these intended guests other interests had become all-absorbing. The invitation they had pledged themselves to accept was put aside, and the generous friend was insulted by their indifference.” COL 222

What happen to the bidden in the end?

Luke 14:24 **For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.**

Profession with NO CONVERSION!

The great supper was greatly anticipated. The Israelites were looking for the first advent of the Messiah. SDA's are looking for the second advent of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Israel missed it why? Pride! Excuses! The majority of SDA's will miss it why? Pride! Excuses! Profession with no CONVERSION!

Lesson

When God clearly reveals His will, salvation, and standards in His word, there is not ONE excuse that is acceptable to God.

“God gave all for man, and He asks him to place His service above every earthly and selfish consideration. He cannot accept a divided heart. The heart that is absorbed in earthly affections cannot be given up to God.” COL 223

Jesus the Master Shepherd**When Jesus says come we should come!**

Jesus says...

Matthew 11:28

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

When Jesus says GO we should GO!

Jesus says...

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even unto the end of the world.* Amen.

Those who respond with NO excuse are sheep that follow their Master Shepherd Jesus were ever He goes. Those who profess truth, but have excuses are like goats who BUT the Master Shepherd!

Matthew 25:32

At the end of time Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats!

Who did the certain man call to the great supper after the “bidden” rejected his invitation?

Luke 14: 21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out **quickly** into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed (crippled/disabled), and the halt (limping), and the blind.

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and **yet there is room.**

The poor, maimed, halt and blind are a class of people knew their condition. They were not as privileged as the bidden. They did not have great possessions such as houses and lands.

“However wretched may be the specimens of humanity that men spurn and turn aside from, they are not too low, too wretched, for the notice and love of God. Christ longs to have care-worn, weary, oppressed human beings come to Him. He longs to give them the light and joy and peace that are to be found nowhere else. The veriest sinners are the objects of His deep, earnest pity and love. He sends His Holy Spirit to yearn over them with tenderness, seeking to draw them to Himself.” COL 226

Because their was more room for the great supper who else where the servants commanded to invite?

Luke 14:23Go out into the highways and hedges...

Highways = The highways are the main travel roads much business takes place and many people are located like in the big cities.

Hedges = *fence*, or inclosing barrier. Hedges are more hard to reach places people behind “fences” like those in prison or jail. Like hedges, those who are further from the highways such as rural and country communities.

“In obedience to this command, Paul and Barnabas declared to the Jews, "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you; but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set Thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that Thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Acts 13:46-48.” COL 226

It is time for ALL believers of truth to work in sharing the everlasting gospel to ALL of the world!

Matthew 24:4-14

- 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**
- 5 **For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**
- 6 **And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**
- 7 **For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.**
- 8 **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

Sorrows (Greek) ὄδιν

Thayer Definition:

- 1) the pain of childbirth, travail pain, birth pangs
- 2) intolerable anguish, in reference to the dire calamities precede the advent of the Messiah

In the last days the next verse is how you know that you are near of the end of the “birthing” pains, intense sorrow right before the coming of Jesus Christ.

- 9 **Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.**
- 10 **And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.**
- 11 **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.**
- 12 **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**
- 13 **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**
- 14 **And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**

THIS GOSPEL is the everlasting gospel of the three angels messages of Revelation 14:6 -12. This is the gospel that will stir up the world and the rejectors of truth to persecute God's people who keep the law and the testimonies of Jesus Christ!

The Three angels of message of Revelation 14:6 - 12

- Reveals true worship verses false worship, a true church verses a false church, a true Christ verses a false christ.
- The three angels messages exposes Satan plans and the man of Sin, Papal Rome.
- The sins of Babylon are laid out for all to see and to make a decision to follow thus sayeth the Lord or thus sayeth the pastor.

This is the everlasting gospel that will cause persecution to God's people in the last days! It has already started.

Revelation 14:6-12

- 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.
 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.
 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,
 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:
 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
 12 Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

This the everlasting GOSPEL that must be given to the whole world. This is **“THIS GOSPEL” of the kingdom** [of Matthew 24:14 that Jesus tells personally tell us that] shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Signs of the TIMES

This week
 Gatlinburg, TN fires

The fires are estimated to have damaged or destroyed nearly 1000 homes and businesses — nearly half of them in the city of Gatlinburg. Additionally, thousands of wooded acres have burned in the most-visited national park in America.

17,000 plus acres were burned!

13 people lost their lives (number could grow because several are still missing)

This was a great tragedy...

Employee from nearby amusement park found a partially burned page of the Bible from Joel 1:15 – 19. It is very appropriate message the we must take heed to knowing that the days that we are living is extremely short

[Show picture of burned page]

Joel 1:15-20 (Read 14, 15,19 and 20)

- 14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,
 15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD *is* at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.
 19 O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.
 20 The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Threat to lose citizenship for burning American flag

Donald Trump President Elect... says November 29, 2016 on his tweeter account

Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag

there must be consequences - perhaps loss of citizen
year in jail!

6:55 AM - 29 Nov 2016

Sunday Movement in European – European Sunday Alliance

On 15th November 2016 the European Sunday Alliance organized its third European conference this time on “Work-Life-Balance 4.0 – Challenges in a time of digitalisation” at the European Economic and Social Committee.

During the conference **Thomas Mann** highlighted that “work-life-balance is a crucial factor in the debate on Health and Safety at Work”. “We have to defend workers against the philosophy of the always-available employee. Our message to the institutions: We stand for a work-free day for all European citizens! I demand to establish the Sunday as work-free day within the working time directive revision!”

Is this time for the Mannequin Challenge or the Everlasting Gospel Challenge?

Currently there are many in the world and even in God's church who are caught up in the latest facebook trend “the mannequin challenge” [show a few pics]

This is NOT the time to do the “Mannequin” challenge! We have been “mannequinning,” inactive with no movement, as a church for too long. It is TIME for the “EVERLASTING GOSPEL” challenge for EVERY believer to get active in giving the three angels message of truth. It's not DEAD. It is still ALIVE!

We are living at the very end of time! Those who are NOT giving the EVERLASTING GOSPEL in it entirety with the call to GET OUT OF BABYLON will continue to be stiff as a mannequin when it comes to giving the truth of three angels message, but they will become animated, used by DEMONS, to persecute those giving the everlasting gospel.

Will you take the EVERLASTING GOSPEL CHALLENGE that will get you persecuted, but in the end you will be given a crown of life through the blood of Jesus Christ.